



# Talking with Children

## Helping Hands Tip Sheet



### Did You Know?

The adults who spend time with children in classrooms and on the playground have many opportunities throughout the day to have meaningful conversations with children.

### How Should Teachers Talk with Children?

Spend time at the child's level engaging in back and forth conversations that are meaningful to the task at hand.

Pay attention when children are interested in something.

Take the time to listen to children's responses.

### Staff Should Talk With Children:

Throughout the day;

During activity time such as art time or free choice;

During caregiving routines such as diapering, toileting or hand washing;

While preparing to transition from one activity to another such as from lunch to rest time;

Don't forget to include songs and fingerplays throughout the day!

### Some Examples of Meaningful Conversations:

"How do you think paint is made?"

"How do you think the carrots got to the grocery store?"

"How did you learn to tie your shoes?"

"What did you eat for breakfast?"

"What did you see out of the car window on your way to school today?"

### Why is This Important?

When children engage in meaningful conversations with adults, children are increasing their language skills, learning conversation skills and learning how to be successful in the community.

Children are learning what is important when they talk to adults.

### More Ideas:

During transitions, sing songs instead of calling out orders or having children wait;

Remove the word "no" from your vocabulary;

Talk with children, not at children;

Sing familiar songs again and again;

Read familiar stories again and again;

Contact the children's librarian at your local library for information regarding materials and suggestions that you can use in your classroom.